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Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly: priority theme: promoting full employment and decent work for all

Statement submitted by Solidarité africaine pour la préservation de la paix et de l'environnement en République Centrafricaine, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* E/CN.5/2008/1.

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Statement

1. Civil society, i.e., we as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), make up a network of persons from every region of the world. Those persons constitute a diversified group of development specialists, researchers, university academics, pedagogues, students, activists, businessmen and businesswomen, decision-makers, politicians and financiers and donors of all ages. The mission of NGOs is to inform, mobilize and encourage commitment on the part of individuals and organizations active in promoting social justice and global development.

2. The forty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development must not simply be a forum. It should be a place where new campaigns in favour of development are launched and new ideas included in the agenda should be dealt with and work on them commenced. It will be an opportunity for participants to develop action plans for political, organizational and personal change. It will also be an opportunity for building new strategic alliances, enhancing advocacy campaigns and coordinating sustainable social development strategies. It will be a unique opportunity for sharing and expanding our knowledge in the area of elimination of barriers.

3. It will also have the task of working collectively to formulate alternatives with a view to real economic and social development and development of international structures that enhance and strengthen a world in which globalization reigns.

4. As we see it, the session will have to include the development of ways and means of transforming our own organizations in order to create for ourselves new models and tools needed in a globalized world.

5. The session might also involve an examination of different strategies aimed at equitable globalization. Speakers might take up the contradictions existing within the new world economic order, while shedding light on the various avenues to be explored with a view to understanding and arriving at economic and social justice throughout the world.

6. Today's world is faced with new challenges that call for a convergence of approaches and solutions as well as more viable and stronger leadership. The session should be able to scrutinize those challenges in order to show the way in which society permits the expression of human rights and social development.

7. In a workshop environment, leaders must offer various perspectives connected with the different challenges and an opportunity to take part in discussions regarding the different fields of social development. Those participating in workshops will refer to the human rights framework to bring together and examine the connections between politics, economic and social change and religion.

8. Gender mainstreaming in development agencies, microcredit initiatives and budgeting based on equality between men and women are just some of the strategies used in recent years to promote the economic rights of individuals. Sessions on skill development will offer analytical tools to help understand and influence existing international cooperation institutions in all fields.